



U.S. Army Captain Jessica L. Murphy

Captain Jessica L. Murphy is a six-year veteran of the United States Army and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. She recently returned from assignments in both Iraq and Afghanistan and is speaking to groups around the country about her personal experiences as a Military Police Officer.

Murphy joined the Army in 2001 after graduating from the University of Minnesota, where she was enrolled in the Army ROTC program after winning a three-year active duty scholarship. Her first assignment was as a Gold Bar recruiter for the University of Minnesota Army ROTC program. Following her completion of the Military Police Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. in September 2002, Murphy was assigned as a Platoon Leader with the 300th Military Police Company at Fort Riley, Kan.

In March 2003, Murphy's company deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After seven months as a Platoon Leader, she assumed the position of the company's Executive Officer for the remaining five months of her year-long combat tour. Upon redeployment in April 2004, Murphy was handpicked by the Battalion Commander to become the Operations Staff Officer for the 924th Military Police Battalion, a job normally held by a Major. She served in that position for eight months before attending the Military Police Captain's Career Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. During her time at Fort Leonard Wood, she also began work on a Master of Arts in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University.

Murphy's next assignment was with the 91st Military Police Battalion at Fort Drum, N.Y. Within 45 days of her arrival, the Battalion deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where she served as the Plans Officer and Assistant Operations Staff Officer for the duration of her deployment.

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Murphy currently resides at Fort Drum and is assigned as the Assistant Operations Staff Officer for the 91st Military Police Battalion. Her decorations include a Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons and a NATO Medal for her service.